

the first data item identifies the second offer, and

the first data item identifies a transaction report for a trade in which the first offer was executed against the second offer at least in part.

177. (amended) A method for operating an offer matching or information publishing system for a traded item comprising the following steps:

- (a) associating a first offer to buy or to sell the traded item with a first identifier;
- (b) receiving a request for information, the request including the first identifier;
- (c) in response to the request, sending to a participant a reply that:

- (1) comprises:

- (A) a first data item that concerns the first offer, and

- (B) a digital signature from the system that is sufficient to permit a

recipient of the reply to determine with reasonable certainty whether the reply was sent by the system and whether the reply has been altered after being sent by the system; and

- (2) is sent to the participant in a manner that is secured without relying upon the digital signature.

178. (amended) An offer matching or information publishing system for a traded item comprising:

- (a) means for associating a first offer to buy or to sell the traded item with a first identifier;

- (b) means for receiving a request for information, the request including the first identifier;

- (c) means for securely sending a reply to a participant in response to the request,

where the reply:

(1) comprises:

(A) a first data item that concerns the first offer, and

(B) a digital signature from the offer matching system that is

sufficient to permit a recipient of the reply to determine with reasonable certainty whether the reply was sent by the system and whether the reply has been altered after being sent by the system; and

(2) is sent to the participant in a manner that is secured without relying upon the digital signature.

193. (amended) The method of claim 191 wherein a predetermined relationship exists between the first data item and the second offer, wherein the predetermined relationship is selected from the group consisting of:

the first data item concerns the second offer,

the first data item identifies the second offer, and

the first data item identifies a transaction report for a trade in which the first offer was executed against the second offer at least in part.

196. (amended) A data stream comprising a plurality of data packets, each of the data packets comprising a respective identifier and a respective data item, wherein:

each respective identifier is associated with a respective offer, and each respective identifier not associated with any other offer,

an offer matching system has previously received a description of each respective offer from a respective participant,

each respective participant possesses information which discloses that a respective related person satisfies a respective condition selected from the group consisting of:

- the respective offer is for the benefit of the respective related person,
- the respective offer is for the account of the respective related person,
- the respective related person made an investment decision to make the respective offer,

- the respective related person has a financial interest in the respective offer,
- the respective related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for the respective offer,

- the respective related person is financially responsible (as principal, guarantor or otherwise) for a trade arising out of the respective offer,

- the respective related person is acting as an agent with respect to the respective offer,

- the respective related person is acting as a principal with respect to the respective offer,

the offer matching system possesses information which discloses for each respective offer the respective identifier associated with the respective offer,

each respective data item concerns the respective offer associated with the respective identifier,

a set of rules that govern the operation of the offer matching system permit the offer matching system to disclose publicly that the respective data items concern the respective offers and